



YOUTH
Dancers perform for seniors
PAGE 5



SPORTS
Athletes cope with changes
PAGE 11



ELECTION
Meet the candidates for senate
PAGE 13

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PUBLIC HEALTH

All closed up for coronavirus

By Michael Ballway
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It's "essential personnel only" at Agawam Town Hall, as efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus this week led to Mayor William Sapelli sending most workers home.

Town Hall, the library, the Senior Center, schools and most other town offices are closed to the public. Emergency services continue as usual, and given the nature of the emergency, the town's Health Department remains open. Just about everything else was closed either last weekend or on Wednesday. Sapelli said the decision follows federal and state health officials' advice that all employers allow their workers to practice "social distancing."

"It's important to stay in your homes, it really is," said Sapelli. "This isn't a scare tactic. You have to follow the instructions we're getting from the state and the CDC, the folks in the know."

He said he's also been encouraged by some of the stories he's heard, and actions he's seen, from private citizens around town. People are looking after their elderly neighbors and limiting their own non-essential travel and



Kathy Kalaitzidis stocks up on books during the "buck a bag" sale in the Agawam Public Library's last open hour on March 14.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

public exposure.

"If your neighbors are in need, please assist them," Sapelli said. "They need you now, more than ever. I see a greater sense of kind-

ness and calm, and that's important in times like this."

He said the advice he'd give to Agawam residents now is to be patient. With delays in testing,

health professionals still don't know the extent of the pandemic or when it will end. The restric-

CLOSURES | page 10

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

No parade for Irish group's 20th year

By Shelby Macri
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With the cancellation of St. Patrick's Day festivities in Holyoke, Agawam's Irish won't get to celebrate their 20th year in the region's largest parade.

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee started around this time in 2000, when a small group of men in town met to discuss the formation of an Irish cultural club. The group finally came together in December of that year and in just a few months' time — by March 2001 — had selected Agawam's first-ever colleen, built a float and organized a contingent to march in the Holyoke parade.

"It's probably one of my proudest achievements," said founding co-chairman Robert Magovern. "We were having a cup of coffee in Friendly's and I thought we should have some way to celebrate our heritage in Agawam. We did a lot that first year."

Founding member Lynn Fitzpatrick added, "We raised all of the funds ourselves, we always have, and we are devoted to the float and the parade."

"It is a tribute to Agawam, that over the last 20 years people have been noticing, joining, and supporting the committee," said long-time member Rosemary Sandlin. "We're constantly looking to raise awareness of the committee and ultimately of Agawam's Irish cultural influence. We've been sustainable and remarkable in our work and we've made some good changes over the years."

Today, the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee has turned into almost a year-round commitment, starting the planning for the next year's float, awards and colleen pageant in the summer, just weeks after the St. Patrick's Day festivities end. It also has a long history and experienced volunteers to guide the way.

In 2001, however, the committee had a short timeline to get ready and was starting fresh. The committee had a framework of rules and regulations from the Holyoke parade organizers, and was able to take some ideas and tips from the West Springfield St.

FEDERAL COUNT

Census forms, jobs arriving in town

By Michael Ballway
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What you get from filling out the federal census form: More funding for your town's infrastructure and schools, more government attention to your town's needs and a better understanding of how many people live in your town's neighborhoods.

What you don't get from filling out the federal census form: Any kind of enforcement action or punishment.

Susan Hagen, partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau for Western Massachusetts, emphasized that point in a discussion with city officials in Holyoke last week.

"None of this information is

CORONAVIRUS

School shuttering is no vacation

Supt.: Online classrooms will keep kids learning

By Shelby Macri
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Schools will be closed for at least three weeks, but the learning doesn't have to stop.

Agawam School Superintendent Steven Lemanski said this week that teachers will be using the Internet to get in touch with their students and assign enrichment and review work to be completed at home as families practice "social distancing" to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

Teachers at the schools are starting to utilize Google Classroom," Lemanski said. "Teachers are currently setting it up and learning how to communicate this way."

He said the push for online classrooms is a result of the coronavirus closure, but it's a resource that teachers and schools will



Clark School's parking lot is usually busy around dismissal time on a Monday — but not this week. PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

probably continue to use even after regular classes resume. Teachers have already been using Google Conference to collaborate on planning assignments and coming up with teaching tips for students in each grade level.

Lemanski acknowledged that not every student has access to a computer at home. For those who

need them, the School Department will loan devices to families during the school closure. Students or parents of students who do not have regular access to an Internet device can request one at forms.gle/YTD1b569G4SwwmJU6, or can pick up a form at the

SCHOOLS | page 4

CENSUS | page 3



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IN THIS ISSUE

Classifieds	18
Crossword	4
Public Notices	12
Opinion	6
Our Town	7
Public Safety	3
Sports	11
Youth	5

20 PAGES

April boat safety class won't be held

The state Environmental Police have canceled plans to host the Boat Massachusetts course next month at Granger School.

The Boat and Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau will reach out to registered participants individually with further information.

Applause Series cancels jazz concert

In response to efforts to fight the spread of the coronavirus, the Agawam Cultural Council this week canceled plans for its next Applause Series free concert, which had been scheduled for April 3.

"Our Applause Series events are attended to a large extent by seniors who come from far and wide," the council said in a statement. "As we have been told, seniors are the most susceptible to the coronavirus."

The free concert was to have featured the jazz trio Too Human, performing at the Agawam Senior Center.

Social distancing advised to fight coronavirus threat

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

All public and private schools will be closed for at least three weeks, restaurants will be limited to delivery or take-out only for a month and gatherings of over 25 people will be banned, Gov. Charlie Baker announced Sunday.

On Monday, Baker also announced a \$10 million recovery loan fund to help small businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the Associated Press reported.

For 80 percent of the population, the coronavirus feels like the flu and doesn't lead to hospitalization, Baker said in a press conference Sunday.

"The reason we're taking this so seriously is because it is incredibly contagious," Baker said. "It's more contagious than the seasonal flu."

On Monday, state health officials reported there were 197 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Massachusetts, up from 164 on Sunday, and 14 hospitalizations, according to the Boston Herald. As of Monday night, there were 181,377 cases worldwide and 7,119 deaths, according to a map by Johns Hopkins University. Most of the deaths were in China, Italy, Iran and Spain.

If we "take decisive steps now and everyone plays

their part by following the best medical guidance, we can slow down the spread, and our healthcare system can be better positioned to care for the people who need it," Baker said.

The statewide order banning gatherings of 25 or more people applies to spaces like churches, gyms, concerts and offices and is in effect until April 5. Baker said there are no shelter-in-place orders. The state has also temporarily suspended certain provisions of open meeting laws in order to allow town boards and commissions to meet via phone or Internet, which still allow real-time public access.

Dine-in service at restaurants has also been banned, though as of Tuesday eateries were still allowed to prepare and serve food for pickup or delivery.

As of Tuesday, there were no other statewide restrictions on businesses, but the city of Holyoke announced that day that it was closing the all shops at the Holyoke Mall that can be reached only by internal corridors. Shops with outside entrances would still be allowed to open.

Social distancing

To halt the spread of the pandemic, doctors are urging people to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from each other whenever

possible. Dr. Armando Paez, chief of infectious diseases at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, said he "can't stress enough the importance of social distancing."

"Maintaining a distance, especially from someone who is sick and is coughing and sneezing, is important because when that person coughs or sneezes, they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain the Covid-19 virus or any other virus. If you are too close to them, then you can breathe in the droplets and become infected. Equally important is the fact that you could be infectious, yet have no symptoms, and spread the disease to others," said Paez.

According to the CDC, older people are twice as likely to have serious illness from the novel coronavirus. They are advising people over 60 with underlying health problems to "stay at home as much as possible." That means avoiding air travel, going to movie theaters, attending family events, and shopping at crowded malls, for example.

"What we know from researchers is that the fatality rate is likely to be higher among older adults," Paez commented. "As we age, our immune system weakens in its ability to fight off

viruses and infections. Also, chronic health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, pulmonary disease and others make it harder for their already weakened bodies to cope with the additional strain placed on them by Covid-19."

You might even want to keep a social distance from your doctor's office, said Paez. To avoid exposing healthy people to infection, the doctor may ask patients coming in for a routine checkup to delay their visit until the virus is under control. Patients should call their doctors before keeping an appointment, Paez advised.

Social distancing also means reconsidering how we greet one another in social situations.

"The handshake is out, at least for now," he said. "Many people over the years have already become more accustomed to saying, I'm not shaking hands because I have a cold. But we have to take that one step further and not shake anyone's hand, even if you're healthy. Handshaking results in transferring viruses and bacteria from one person to another, and that means the new coronavirus."

He suggested that people greeting each other should use a bow, a wave or an elbow bump.

"We all need to do our

part to help prevent the spread of this deadly virus," Paez said. "The time to take action is now, before it is too late, when as a country many are only now coming to the realization that social distancing is the only way to stop the community spread of coronavirus Covid-19."

For more information, visit baystatehealth.org/covid19.

Change elections

The pandemic is also having an impact on the presidential primaries. On Monday night, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said he would postpone Ohio's presidential primary by declaring a public health emergency. Georgia, Kentucky and Louisiana have also postponed their primary elections.

Massachusetts held its presidential primary on March 3, but several municipal elections are planned for later this spring. Additionally, as of Tuesday, Massachusetts had not postponed the handful of special legislative elections — including a contested race for state Senator in Agawam and 10 other communities in Hampden and Hampshire counties — scheduled for March 31.

Staff writer Michael Ballway contributed to this report.

Scout still seeks emergency supplies for Gold Award

- rubber door stoppers
 - rolls of duct tape
 - Kleenex packets
 - bug spray
 - flashlights with batteries
 - whistles with a lanyard
 - bottles of water
 - packages of glow sticks
- For information on how to donate, email Croteau at serenacroteau03@gmail.com. Croteau was originally working toward a March 24 deadline, but her Gold Award schedule has been extended amid concerns over the coronavirus. When the drive ends, she will work with AHS student clubs to pack and distribute the Safety Stash buckets.



A collection box at the Agawam Public Library this month aided a Girl Scout project to equip high school classrooms with emergency supplies. PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

Adams presentation canceled

The Agawam Historical Association has canceled its planned March 25 meeting because of concerns over the spread of coronavirus.

The meeting was slated

to include a presentation by Sheryl Faye about Abigail Adams, the nation's second first lady. That presentation has been tentatively rescheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 14.

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Kindergarten parent info night will be rescheduled for May

A parent information night about 2020-21 kindergarten, scheduled for March 26, will be rescheduled for May, the school superintendent's office announced this week.

A makeup date in May will be chosen for the event, which is intended to give parents information about enrolling their child, screening their child, and preparing them and their child for the transition to elementary school.

Agawam children who turn 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2020, are eligible for kindergarten next school year. Depending on where they live, kindergartners attend classes at one of the town's four elementary schools, Clark, Granger, Phelps and Robinson Park. For more information, contact Robin Fernandes, director of early childhood, at 413-821-0597.

Catholic Women cancel April show

Due to the coronavirus, the annual entertainment and dinner of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam has been canceled. The event was scheduled for April 27. The club will release information about its May meeting as soon as it is determined.

Scholarship forms are available by contacting Paula at 413-537-1174. Applicants must be a child or grandchild of a club member, a graduating senior and continuing their education.

CENSUS | from page 1

shared with any other department in the government," she said. "We don't look at any kind of documentation, or any kind of status. We don't share it with your landlord. The census is safe."

Although she was speaking in Holyoke, she said the procedures in place there will apply to every community in Western Massachusetts. All the census wants is an accurate number of residents in each dwelling, and some basic information about them for statistical reasons, she said. The census does not care whether respondents are lawful residents of their building or even of the country — only that they are residents of this community.

Households should have started receiving census forms last week. Residents can fill out the forms and return them, postage-free. If they don't respond, they will receive more mailings from the census, inviting them to participate. After five tries through the mail, census workers begin showing up at the front door. Hagen said those personal visits may begin for some properties in late April.

The followup stage of the census — where census workers called "enumerators" visit every household that hasn't responded and try to talk to the residents to get an accurate count — also represents an employment opportunity. The census wants to hire Western Massachusetts residents to make this outreach in their own home towns, so that residents aren't being asked questions by complete strangers from far away.

"We rely on the people in the neighborhood to be the representatives of the cen-

sus," Hagen said. "They're the trusted voice."

In an effort to attract more job seekers, the census recently increased its hourly wage for enumerators to \$22, Hagen said. Asked how many hours a week they would work, she said it's up to the worker.

"You can work 40 and plus," she said. "We're foreseeing we're going to need plenty of hours."

Enumerators do not need a college education or any special qualifications. They must be 18 years or older, and must have a valid email address.

Hagen said the Census Bureau is hoping to finish its count by the end of August, though work could stretch into September if it runs behind schedule. By law, it has to be completed by the end of December.

Information on working for the census can be found at 2020census.gov.

The stakes are high, Hagen said. The federal census only comes around once a decade.

"It is an extremely important census," she said. "Money is distributed according to these numbers. We live with these numbers for 10 years."

For whatever reason, children up to age 5 were drastically undercounted in the 2010 census, Hagen said. School districts found that out in the middle of the decade, when kindergarten enrollments ended up much higher than they had predicted using census figures. Hagen said it's important to get an accurate count of all residents from newborn to elderly, including demographic details such as their ages, so that government agencies can plan their staffing and spending.

"Babies, infants, 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds ... this population is going to go to school, need a desk, need a classroom," Hagen said.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 377 calls for service March 9-15, and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, March 10

Kianni Marie Reidy, 22, of no known address, was arrested at 9:19 p.m. on Castle Hill Road on two warrants.

Wednesday, March 11

Drevon M. Hornsby, 24, of 69 State Street Terrace,

Springfield, was arrested at 8:19 a.m. on Ridgeway Drive on a warrant. Robert G. Seagrave Jr., 46, of 19 Hamilton Circle, Feeding Hills, was arrested at 6:39 p.m. on Hamilton Circle on a warrant.

Alexander R. Sampson, 24, of 32 Regency Park Drive, Agawam, was arrested at 9:39 p.m. on Regency Park Drive on three warrants.

Thursday, March 12

Paul C. Farrell, 65, of 325 Regency Park Drive, Agawam, was arrested at 5:06 p.m. on Elm Street on a warrant.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



Boldyga opposed gas tax increase bill

State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, recently voted against a bill to raise the state gas tax and implement additional policy changes that would collectively increase taxes on Massachusetts residents and employers by more than \$600 million.

On March 4, Boldyga voted against House Bill 4508, An Act Relative to Transportation Finance. During floor debate, he supported several amendments designed to eliminate, mitigate or delay the proposed tax increases. H. 4508 passed the House of Representatives on a vote of 113-40, and will now move to the Senate for further consideration.

Under the bill, the motor vehicle gasoline excise tax would rise from 24 cents per gallon to 29 cents per gallon, while the tax on diesel fuel would increase from 24 cents per gallon to 33 cents per gallon. Boldyga said that according to the Boston Herald, an analysis conducted by the Beacon Hill Institute estimates these proposed increases would result in the loss of 3,000 jobs and \$93 million in business investment in just the first year, while depriving Massachusetts residents of \$843 million in disposable income and costing the state economy \$207 million in lost production.

The proposed law also calls for a restructuring of the corporate minimum excise tax for companies with annual sales exceeding \$1 million. Currently set at \$456, the corporate minimum excise tax would be replaced with a nine-tiered structure that would result in some businesses

paying a minimum excise of as much as \$150,000.

"I do not support higher gas taxes or higher taxes of any kind," said Boldyga. "This attempt to raise the gas tax will adversely impact taxpayers and slow economic growth. As a working-class guy, I will always advocate for working-class families and small business owners, and raising taxes is not in our best interest."

Transportation network companies would also be impacted by the House bill, which would implement new fees on shared, non-shared and luxury rides of 20 cents, \$1.20 and \$2.20, respectively, but would bar the companies from passing these fees along to consumers and drivers. The bill also eliminates the existing sales tax exemption for new vehicles purchased by car rental companies.

Among the amendments Boldyga supported were proposals to:

* Provide cities and towns with a permanent exemption from the gasoline excise tax

* Retain the existing corporate minimum excise tax

* Repeal the tax increases included in the bill if the proposed "millionaires tax" ballot question is approved by Massachusetts voters in November 2022

Boldyga represents Agawam, Granville and Southwick in the state House of Representatives. He can be reached at 413-569-3137, ext. 103, or

Nicholas.Boldyga@mahouse.gov.

Family Program closed through April 1

The Agawam Family and Community Program has canceled all its programs through April 1, amid the coronavirus epidemic. These include Shake, Shimmy and Dance scheduled for this Friday, the Multicultural Festival scheduled for next Saturday, and the Parent Café scheduled for April 1.

Outreach Coordinator Valerie Smart said as April 1 approaches, organizers will "re-evaluate the closure and determine if we can resume programming."

For more information on the program, email Erin Cosgrove at ecosgrove@agawamed.org or call 413-821-0597.



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NAMI art exhibit scheduled for Chicopee library in April

CHICOPEE — The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts, based in Agawam, will exhibit the works of artists living with mental health conditions throughout April at the Chicopee Public Library.

An opening reception is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, in the library at 449 Front St., Chicopee. The reception and parking adjacent to the library are free. The art show will feature art works for sale to the public, with proceeds going to the artists. Complimentary refreshments will be served at the reception, and all are welcome.

The "Art for the Mind" art show is a venue for artists with lived experience with mental illness to have a showcase for their work. It is an opportunity to educate the public about the lives, creativity and abilities of individuals in Western Massachusetts who are affected by this often stigmatized illness.

NAMI-Western Massachusetts is dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions through support, education and advocacy. For more information, visit www.namiwm.org or call 413-786-9139.

Drive raises \$377K to fight diabetes

Stop & Shop grocery stores recently raised a record-breaking \$376,979 to benefit JDRF, the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes research. Stop & Shop customers, including patrons of the store on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills, supported the effort by donating the denomination of their choosing (\$1, \$3, \$5, or round up to the next dollar) at the register from Feb. 15 to March 1.

"JDRF is grateful for the amazing results from the recent campaign at Stop & Shop," said Joe Watterson, vice president of corporate development at JDRF. "The generous

support from associates and customers is truly making a difference for families, like the Skinners, that live in Stop & Shop communities."

More than 1.6 million Americans live with type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune disease that can strike at any time. It cannot be prevented, and, at present, there is no cure. More than 200,000 with type 1 diabetes are under the age of 20. Experts say that by 2050, the numbers will skyrocket to 5 million, of which 600,000 will be youth. Each year more than 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

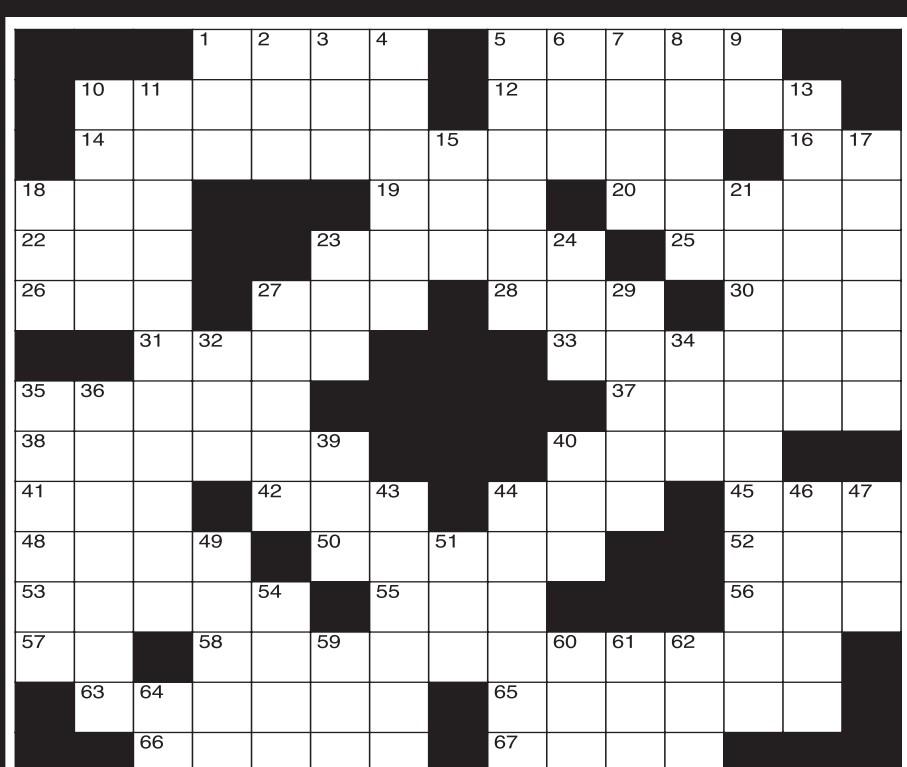
Channel 15 has Covid-19 updates

The town of Agawam is centralizing its communications regarding Covid-19 and its impact on the town, with updates available from cable access Channel 15 both on Comcast cable and online.

Channel 15 will air coronavirus-related videos and updates from Mayor William

Sapelli and town Health Director Kathleen Auer. The videos are available on demand at agawammedia.tv.

The town website, at agawam.ma.us, also has links to coronavirus updates available from a link with a flashing red light at the top of the page.



CLUES ACROSS

- Currency of Guinea
- Avert something bad
- Sounds
- Immediate dangers
- Legendary Tar Heels coach
- Californium
- Work standards government dept. (abbr.)
- Coastal Scottish town
- Triangular lower back bones
- Trouble
- A way to smile
- Something that is not what it seems
- Of she
- Temporary living quarters
- Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- Indicates near
- Spiritual leader
- Soup dish
- Philippine island
- No longer fashionable
- Peaks
- Alabama football team
- King Cole
- Digital audiotape
- Open trough
- The woman
- Cools down
- Turkic language
- Body part
- Pulse steadily
- Embedded computer hardware company
- Indicates shape
- Thou (plural)
- Odd and remarkable
- An evening party
- National capital of Zambia
- Tantalizes

CLUES DOWN

- Not naturally outgoing
- Exclamation of pain
- Polynesian garland of flowers
- Surrounded by water
- Church towers
- Hot beverage
- Body parts
- Travel documents
- Railway
- Gradually wear away
- Measuring instrument
- Minor dust-ups
- Strongly alkaline solution
- Extreme scarcity of food
- Dash
- Philly culinary specialty
- Popular lager
- Dark brown or black
- Snitch
- Trimmed
- Greek god of desire
- Take to the limit
- Cool!
- Sound mental health
- Native American group
- Test for high schoolers
- Rocky peak
- Preferences
- Bother
- Call attention to (slang)
- Snake-like fish
- Bulgarian capital
- Don't know when yet
- Italian Seaport
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Where to bathe
- Equal, prefix
- Beverage container
- Denotes openness

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 8

Mayoral breakfast moved to Sept.

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The West of the River Chamber of Commerce's Mayoral Breakfast has been rescheduled for Sept. 2.

Anyone who had signed up for the March 19 event will be automatically registered for the new date, 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the Storrowton Tavern Carriage House, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. New registrations and sponsorships are also being taken, at robin@westoftheriverchamber.com.

The breakfast event is a chance to hear the mayors of Agawam and West Springfield, William Sapelli and Will Reichelt, discuss happenings in each town and collaborative efforts. The mayors will also answer questions submitted ahead of time to the Chamber. The West of the River Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of the business community in Agawam and West Springfield.

Council, schools plan closed meetings

Following the cancelation of this week's City Council meeting, Mayor William Sapelli announced on Tuesday that all "non-essential" public meetings of town boards and commissions have been canceled, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

When emergency meetings must be held, they will be held in the Agawam Senior Center and closed to the public. All meetings will be videotaped and broadcast on the public access cable television channel as soon as practicable. Gov. Charlie Baker on March 12 granted all Massachusetts towns an emergency public health exemption to the state's Open Meeting Law.

Notices of public meetings will be posted at agawam.ma.us and on the bulletin board outside Town Hall, 36 Main St., Agawam. Meeting notices will include email

contact information to allow residents to send input and comments on agenda items directly to board members.

Any member of the public wishing to provide input and comments to the City Council under the Citizen Speak Time portion of its agenda may submit them to the council's administrative assistant, Barbara Bard, at bbard@agawam.ma.us. Anyone wishing to submit input or comments to the School Committee may send them to the administrative assistant to the superintendent, Alexis Ferioi, at aferioi@agawam.org. All submitted comments will be read into the record at the meeting.

Sapelli said on Tuesday that he envisions the City Council and School Committee each meeting once per month for the duration of the pandemic, to take care of business that cannot be postponed.

SCHOOLS ■ from page 1

schools' Central Office in the Agawam Junior High School building, 1305 Springfield St., Agawam.

Those who do have an Internet device at home are asked to use their own equipment, at the schools have a limited number of devices available. Lemanski said the town's information technology director will be available to provide assistance to those who need it.

Lemanski said it's important that children keep learning through the school closure, especially with children in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1-3. Keeping their classroom habits active will help them succeed when schools reopen.

"Engage the kids in fun, meaningful, and educational ways during this time away from school," Lemanski advised parents. "You don't want to let them sit around, so try to engage and learn with them."

He said although the break is currently only scheduled to last until early April, it could be extended longer.

In a statement released Monday, Lemanski said the schools are working to contact kindergarten and grade 1 students with login information for school Google accounts, which teachers will use to contact students with enrichment assignments. Students in higher grades should log in with the accounts they already have to receive assignments and messages from their teachers.

Lemanski said all teachers will be reaching out to their students in some way.

Parents are encouraged to check their school websites, which will have grade-specific activities and ideas soon.

Students out weeks

Lemanski also strongly encouraged kids to be mindful of the reason for the school

closure — to halt the spread of a deadly disease — and follow public health guidelines.

"I drove by the basketball courts the other day and there were hordes of kids. It defeats the purpose of them being sent home," Lemanski said. "You don't know what a kid has, so you don't know if you're infected. We're strongly encouraging kids to stay away from public places and large groups."

Studies have shown that children can carry the coronavirus without showing symptoms, but are still able to infect adults.

Following reports that a family member of a high school student had "flu-like symptoms," Agawam High School was closed last Friday, March 13, in what was initially conceived as a one-day break to give workers time to thoroughly clean and disinfect all hard surfaces and "touch points" throughout the school and school buses. As more and more schools across the region announced two-week closures, Agawam decided late last week to shut down all its schools through March 27. The School Department also canceled all out-of-state school travel through April 27, and any "events that include community members involving large numbers of outside people" through April Vacation, the third week in April. Individual school principals will announce how events will be replaced or rescheduled at their schools.

Among the events canceled included a public listening session for the School Superintendent Search Committee on March 16. Mayor William Sapelli said this week that the committee has agreed to suspend the search process. Officials will reassess whether to reopen the search when public meeting schedules return to normal.

This week, Gov. Charlie Baker ordered that all schools in Massachusetts stay closed through at least the first week in April. The first day back in class would be April 6 — unless the closure is extended again.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com

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Schools & Youth

Mary Ann Studio dancers perform at Heritage Woods

Students from Mary Ann Studio of Dance recently had a chance to share their love of the art with a wider crowd than the friends and family who come to their year-end show.

Mary Ann dancers performed at Heritage Woods on Feb. 29. Adult and teen dancers showed off their precision in tap shoes and their adeptness with props such as tambourines and capes, honed through years of practice. Not only did they entertain the residents, but they also took time to mingle with residents after the show.

For the younger dancers, the show served as practice to prepare them for the much larger audience at the year-end show. Among the younger dancers were the "small fry" (age 2), who were performing in public for the first time. These little girls enjoyed being in front of an audience, and they too showed what it was like to perform with their apple props.

This turned out to be a very special performance for the Mary Ann dancers, as just two weeks later Heritage Woods, along with many other senior facilities and nursing homes, was ordered into quarantine because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The Mary Ann Studio of Dance staff and dancers hope that everyone stays well, and we look forward to the day we can all get out there and dance, dance, dance for you again," commented instructor April Mosher.



Erikah Jenney, left, and Emily Scott of Feeding Hills perform the tarentella.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Mary Ann Studio of Dance instructor April Mosher, of Agawam, performs with her dad Fred Bliss, a 93-year-old resident of Heritage Woods.



Kaylianna St. Amand, Izabella Piascik of Feeding Hills and Makyala Stellato get ready to perform their "Ice Cream Freeze" dance.



Mary Ann's youngest dancers, Corrine Davignon of Feeding Hills, left, and Emma Stellato, take a bow for an appreciative audience at Heritage Woods in Agawam on Feb. 29.



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HAMPDEN SS.
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GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Special State Elections to vote at:

- Precinct 1: Robinson School, 65 Begley Street**
- Precinct 2: Clifford M. Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street**
- Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street**
- Precinct 4: Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street**
- Precinct 5: Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main Street**
- Precinct 6: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street**
- Precinct 7: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street**
- Precinct 8: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street**

on TUESDAY, THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF MARCH, 2020,
from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Special State Elections for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

SECOND HAMPDEN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting. Given under our hands this third day of February, 2020.

Vincent Gioscia
Town Clerk

Opinion

OUR VIEW

Coronavirus is a real threat

Americans don't like being told what to do, and the government's been doing an awful lot of telling lately.

Don't eat out. Don't send your kids to school. Don't have a party. Don't watch a parade.

The past week has seen a massive upheaval in almost every aspect of almost every American's life — home, work, recreation. None of it has been welcome. But — to repeat the phrase we all hated when we heard it as children from our parents, our doctors and our teachers — it's for our own good. The point is to protect us from the coronavirus.

The coronavirus that quarantined an entire metropolis in China.

The coronavirus that shut down essentially the whole country of Italy.

The coronavirus is not a possibility or a far-off fear. It's a real thing that has been killing thousands of people around the world. It's here now, and the only way we can stop it is to keep it from jumping from person to person. And the only way to do that is to keep people away from people.

A little skepticism about the claims made by politicians is a healthy thing, especially when they're trying to justify restrictions on freedom of movement and commerce. But this isn't a good time to take a chance on the experts being wrong. Everyone in a position of power is saying the same thing — the coronavirus is a real threat. Federal, state and local officials. Doctors and public health agencies. Business leaders. Politicians from both major parties.

That the American death toll hasn't yet reached the crisis levels of Italy or China is not a testament to some inherent superiority or hardiness of the American public. It's merely a function of the fact that the coronavirus infected those countries earlier. Public health officials aren't responding to actual deaths on our shores. They're looking at how the disease has spread in other countries, and trying to stop it from spreading that way here.

What can you do?

- Practice good hygiene — wash hands frequently, cough into your sleeve rather than hand, disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items in the home.

- Stay home. Work from home, learn from home, eat at home. Shop online and have items delivered. Read books and watch television rather than going out for entertainment. Don't host or attend parties.

- Limit contact between elderly people and young people. Senior citizens are especially susceptible to Covid-19, and children can carry the virus without showing any symptoms.

- If you begin to experience a fever or flu-like symptoms, call your doctor.

Unfortunately, by the time symptoms appear, the patient has already been carrying — and spreading — the disease for as long as two weeks. Any of us could be infected right now and not realize it, so it's important that all of us work to halt its spread, whether we "feel sick" or not.

The government is forcing some of these choices on us. Schools, senior centers and increasingly town halls are closed. Public gatherings of large numbers of people have been banned. Restaurants are closed for all but take-out and delivery.

Some of these lifestyle changes are easy. Some are difficult. Some may even be annoying or burdensome.

But every one of them is better than getting infected. And every one of them is better than getting your grandparents, your parents, or your elderly neighbors infected, too.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.



IN THE GARDEN

Pre-start cannas now!



Roberta McQuaid

I was trying to think up a good indoor gardening project that the girls could help me with over their unexpected break from school. How about pre-starting some canna rhizomes? I have a few overwintering in the mudroom and if I start the now they'll be good-sized by May. Read on.

Cannas are gorgeous plants for the summer border. Their large, paddle-shaped leaves and fist-sized clusters of vivid-toned flowers add an exotic touch to beds and container plantings. Sometimes, however, a gardener's initial experience with this tender bulb leads to disappointment rather than delight. The plant may take most of the season to reach its mature height and come into flower, only to be struck down by frost a few weeks later. Why not give your cannas a head start? By potting them up now you will get blooms earlier in the season and be able to enjoy wonderful tropical foliage for a longer period.

If you are shopping for canna rhizomes for the first time, you will no doubt find a better selection through mail order nurseries than the local garden center. Standard varieties can grow upwards of six feet tall, whereas dwarf cultivars top off at two or three feet. Choose carefully! All will do best if planted in full sun and fertile soil. Some cannas even make great water specimens. When you place your order, mention to the operator that you'd like your bulbs as soon as it is safe enough for them to be sent in the mail without risk of freezing, otherwise you will likely receive them close to Memorial Day, which is too late for indoor planting.

When your package arrives, unpack it immediately. Canna rhizomes will come in small plastic bags filled with peat moss. At the very least, they should be about the size of your thumb; sometimes they are even double that in width. They ought to be firm, not at all soft. To pot them up, choose a container that is a couple of inches bigger than the rhizome when it is laid out horizontally; one six to

eight inches in diameter is usually ideal. Fill the pot about half way with a good quality moistened potting soil. Lay the rhizome on top with leaf buds pointing up. Any hairy roots, new or old can fall to the side. Cover with two inches of soil. If your finished product reaches the rim, reposition so that you have at least an inch deep "basin" on top to make watering well easier. Place the pots in a warm location and continue to water as needed. When the first sprouts appear, move the canna plants to a sunny window or place under grow lights. By mid-May you can start to harden the plants off outdoors by gradually exposing them to bright sun, wind and fluctuating temps. After a week to 10 days of acclimatization, and if there are no frosts in the forecast, cannas can be removed from their pots and planted in their permanent summer location. A shovelful of compost in the planting hole along with supplemental fertilizer every couple of weeks will result in big, floriferous plants fast!

Be sure to save your cannas from year to year; it's easy and makes great sense money-wise. I have had the same 'Wyoming' cannas going for well over a decade now. After a light frost, dig up the plants and let them dry briefly. Then, cut the foliage away from the rhizomes and store them at 50 degrees in boxes or tubs filled with peat moss. As mentioned, my mudroom is the perfect spot in my house. I am sure there is a place in yours too. After the second season you will have enough divisions to share with family and friends; much to their delight.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Our Back Pages

From yesteryear's editions of the Agawam Advertiser News, compiled by Michael Ballway.

A year ago: Agawam garnered several awards at the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, 2019. The colleens' float, "Faith and Knowledge / Creideamh & Eolas / Book of Kells," won the John K. Bowler Award, first place for a religious theme. The Marching Mohawks were doubly awarded, with Agawam High School earning the William H. Burns Memorial Award for best marching band, and Jamie Lyn Cavallone named the best majorette in the parade.

Five years ago: Mark and Sue Tansey, owners of Partners Restaurant, announced in March 2015 that they do plan to rebuild the Feeding Hills eatery after a Septem-

ber 2014 fire, though in the meantime they also planned to open a "second" location at The Cup, a closed diner in their hometown of West Springfield.

Ten years ago: A new school lunch payment system is slowing down the cafeteria line, high schoolers complained in the March 25, 2010, Agawam Advertiser News. The schools had converted from cash payments to a debit system that requires cafeteria workers to scan students' ID badges. They found, however, that hundreds of students don't wear their badges, and even for those who do, the scanning process takes longer than paying in cash. School Principal Steve Lemanski said, however, that lines were moving faster later in the month than they did at the March 1 rollout, as students and workers alike got used to it.



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YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

The incredible Sam Provo

Most fans of the popular TV show "Jeopardy" have memories of shows that had surprise endings or categories where they knew almost every response. I would say "every question," but as you probably know, "Jeopardy" gives you the answer and the contestant has to respond with the appropriate question, in keeping with the category. When the mailman Cliff Clavin in the "Cheers" episode was on "Jeopardy," didn't he come up with a really ridiculous final question and lost?

One other memorable "Jeopardy" show was when, on the final answer-question, the contestant with a big lead figured out how much his nearest opponent could possibly end up with by betting everything, did some arithmetic and tried to bet just the right amount to still win. Instead of betting one dollar less than the calculated amount, he/she bet one dollar more and lost by one dollar.



Walt Willard

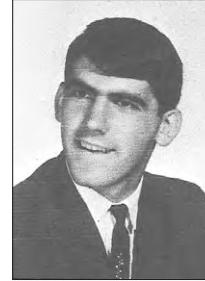
One of my favorite "Jeopardy" memories was when host Alex Trebek used the word "palindrome." I didn't quite know what it meant, but learned from Alex that a palindrome is a word or number that reads the same forward as backwards. Like "kayak" or "racecar" or 121 (11 x 11) or 484 (22 x 22). For years, I looked for license plates that were palindromes, and probably saw dozens, but now almost never

do I see one, because most license plates now have letters, and that makes it much harder to get a palindrome. Now I look for license plates that are nearly identical to my 7LNY50. One day at the Pride station in Feeding Hills (Craig Dore's favorite), I started toward a car with 7LNS50. Wait a minute, my car's not white! See if you can find a license plate like yours.

Some dates of birth are palindromes. Stuart Kibbe, Cliff's brother, was born 3-3-33, a palindrome. Another well-known Brownie, Sam Provo, was born on 8-4-48, another

palindrome. My senior year at AHS the baseball coach let me pitch the last game of the season against Palmer. It was prom day, so two of our position starters had to get their nails done and didn't show up. Ed Harrasuk, our usual shortstop, had to catch, so Sam Provo was brought up from the freshman team to fill in at short for Eddie. Sam must have had a great game, because Palmer only scored one run and we won 2-1 in eight innings. Since I had only pitched eight innings all season, I had plenty of energy.

Sam and I have talked about that Palmer game many times. My last game was his first. We won because Emile Barbaro walked with the bases loaded in the top of the eighth inning. Sam Provo was inducted into the AHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. His 1,276 career points playing basket-



Sam Provo

ball here was the school record for about 50 years. He was excellent at football and baseball, too, and he is certainly a candidate for the "best athlete ever at AHS" if that discussion comes up at McDonald's or the Elbow.

Sam is now at Encompass in Ludlow, recovering from a successful removal of a benign brain tumor. If you want to send him a card, his unbelievably devoted wife Liz will bring it to him. Mail to Sam Provo, 13 Knight Ave., Easthampton, MA 01027. I visited Sam about eight times at Baystate, and Liz was there every time.

Note: For two weeks there were untrue rumors about Sam's condition circulating around town. Before you pass on information about Sam, or anyone, you should make sure you have the facts from a reliable source.

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.

Our Town**Way Finders names local as chief of operations**

Way Finders Inc. has named Laureen Borgatti of Agawam as its new chief operating officer.

Borgatti has been employed by the organization for 27 years, serving in various administrative capacities, most recently as the organization's chief of staff and chief administrative officer.

"Laureen has consistently demonstrated extraordinary leadership, and her institutional knowledge after so many years of service to the organization is invaluable as we chart our path for the future," Way Finders CEO Peter Gagliardi said. "She has a deep understanding of the multitude of programs we administer, our complex staffing structure, and has built strong relationships with our partners and funders. Most recently, Laureen has served as our internal project



manager for the construction of our new Housing Center, soon to be completed in April 2020. It has been an honor to work with her throughout the years and I'm pleased to name her as Way Finders' COO."

Borgatti remarked, "I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as Way Finders' chief operating officer and excited for what the future holds for our organization. It is a privilege to work side by side with our dedicated staff and partners every day and to witness firsthand the positive impact we are able to make in the lives of our clients and in communities throughout Western Massachusetts."

Borgatti is also the chairman of the board of directors of the Human Service Forum, a membership organization that assists members in better addressing the needs of the people they serve throughout the Pioneer Valley. She sits on the board of

directors for the new Housing Navigator, an initiative led by the Kuehn Charitable Foundation to develop an online search tool that will give people with low and moderate incomes the ability to quickly find available affordable rental units anywhere in Massachusetts. She also serves on the board of directors of the Dakin Humane Society.

Founded in 1972, Way Finders is the largest nonprofit housing provider in Western Massachusetts, providing housing counseling, financial education, employment training, affordable housing development and management, rental assistance, homelessness prevention services, neighborhood revitalization, and community building. For more information on Way Finders' programs, visit www.wayfindersma.org.

The organization owns 13 acres at 586 Mill St. in Feeding Hills, and has state approval to build an affordable housing apartment complex there.

**Parent graduates from Basic Training**

SAN ANTONIO — Jacob Parent, a 2019 graduate of Agawam High School, recently graduated Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Parent is now continuing his training at the Department of Defense Firefighter Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas.

**LOCAL
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Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quaboag Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
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Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.

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Baystate Hospital adds sharp visitor restrictions

SPRINGFIELD — Baystate Health this week implemented a "no visitors" policy at all its Western Massachusetts hospitals.

The policy has been enacted amid the coronavirus pandemic to protect patients, community members and employees. It affects all Baystate hospitals, including Baystate Medical Center and Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield, and Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield, among others.

Exceptions may be made at the discretion of Baystate Health for:

- One parent or guardian for a patient under the age of 18.
- One birthing partner for a woman in labor.
- One person at a time for a hospice or end-of-life patient.
- One clergy member for an end-of-life patient.
- One caretaker for a completely depending patient.

Those meeting exceptions will be screened prior to visitation.

For more information, visit baystatehealth.org/covid19.



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Past awardees

Leaders and award recipients over the 20-year history of the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee include the following:

Colleens

Selected annually from contestants in a pageant open to unmarried young ladies from Agawam and Feeding Hills, aged 17-22, of Irish descent.

- 2001:** Danielle DeForge
- 2002:** Alyson Garvey
- 2003:** Alisha Linder
- 2004:** Erinn Gormley
- 2005:** Mary Zajac
- 2006:** Megan Wills
- 2007:** Lisa Ruhl
- 2008:** Christine Davignon
- 2009:** Kaitlyn Weyant
- 2010:** Brianna Newton
- 2011:** Jessica Colson
- 2012:** Allison McCluskey
- 2013:** Paige Circosta
- 2014:** Kelly Theriault
- 2015:** Lauren Muszynski
- 2016:** Elizabeth Caracciolo
- 2017:** Hailey Lyne
- 2018:** Abbie Hoban
- 2019:** Bailey Thomas
- 2020:** Emma Thomson

Committee presidents

Robert Magovern and Angela Phillips served as co-chairmen in 2001.

- 2002:** Lowell McLane
- 2003:** William Pfau
- 2004:** William Pfau
- 2005:** Sue O'Hare
- 2006:** Jude O'Hare
- 2007:** Barbara Lussier
- 2008:** Abbe McLane
- 2009:** Maurice Casey
- 2010:** Barbara Lussier
- 2011:** Rita Moore
- 2012:** Jude O'Hare
- 2013:** John O'Brien
- 2014:** Rosemary Sandlin
- 2015:** Barbara Foley
- 2016:** Vera Conway
- 2017:** Rosemary Sandlin
- 2018:** Laurie Wright
- 2019:** Laurie Wright
- 2020:** Laurie Wright

Citizenship Award

Given annually since 2005 to a non-committee member who has made substantial contributions to the Agawam community.

- 2005:** Michael Grandfield
- 2006:** Kate Leary Gourde
- 2007:** Six Flags
- 2008:** Ric Sardella
- 2009:** Joan Linnehan
- 2010:** Darcy Davis Jr.

Parade marshals

Chosen annually as the St. Patrick's Committee's highest honor.

- 2001:** Paul Kelley
- 2002:** Rev. William Lunney
- 2003:** Robert Magovern
- 2004:** Lowell McLane
- 2005:** William Pfau
- 2006:** Thomas Stanton
- 2007:** Joseph Fitzpatrick
- 2008:** Kevin Garvey
- 2009:** John Corcoran
- 2010:** Rita Moore
- 2011:** Jude O'Hare
- 2012:** Tim McGrew
- 2013:** Rev. John Brennan
- 2014:** Maurice Casey
- 2015:** Rosemary Sandlin
- 2016:** John McCarthy Sr.
- 2017:** Vera Conway
- 2018:** Laurie Wright
- 2019:** Mary Jo Safford
- 2020:** Laurie O'Connell

Anne Sullivan Award

Given annually to a female committee member who epitomizes the values represented by Anne Sullivan.

- 2002:** Mary Broadhurst
- 2003:** Lynn Fitzpatrick
- 2004:** Gloria King
- 2005:** Rita Moore
- 2006:** Abbe McLane
- 2007:** Lisa Garvey
- 2008:** Barbara Lussier
- 2009:** Barbara Pfau
- 2010:** Sue O'Hare
- 2011:** Betsy Sardella
- 2012:** Sue Wills
- 2013:** Rosemary Sandlin
- 2014:** Barbara Foley
- 2015:** Mary Jo Safford
- 2016:** Nicole Stevenson
- 2017:** Laurie O'Connell
- 2018:** Diane Pirnie
- 2019:** Linda Wojcik
- 2020:** Kay Benson

- 2011:** Jack Sarat
- 2012:** Mary Ann Zicollera
- 2013:** Emily Cote
- 2014:** Bob Kadis
- 2015:** Marilyn Curry
- 2016:** David Cecchi
- 2017:** Ed Borgatti
- 2018:** Maria Summers
- 2019:** David DeMatteo
- 2020:** Anthony Boido



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Cancelation of parade breaks 68-year tradition for local Irish

By Shelby Macri
[smaci@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

the past 20 years. Runners from around the region and around the world have competed in the 10 km road race each year since 1976.

The decision was made in a March 10 meeting of Holyoke city officials. The prospect of lining city streets with revelers standing shoulder-to-shoulder for hours simply did not make sense at a time when Gov. Charlie Baker had declared a state of emergency and public health officials around the world were urging people to cancel unnecessary travel and stay away from large crowds. Another reason given for canceling the events was the potential effect of a disease outbreak on Holyoke's public safety personnel.

Holyoke was not the only place in New England to cancel its parade. Boston, Hartford and New Haven, among others, had already canceled their celebrations by the time Holyoke did. Worcester also canceled its parade. New York City announced it would postpone its parade, though no makeup date has been set.

and Citizenship Award winner Anthony Boido. The colleen and her court would have ridden on an elaborate float in the March 22 parade, while the marshal and award winners would have walked or ridden in classic cars at the head of the Agawam contingent.

The Anne Sullivan award is presented to a female committee member who epitomizes the values of Anne Sullivan, the Feeding Hills resident who was Helen Keller's teacher. Agawam's first float in the Holyoke parade carried an Anne Sullivan theme.

For the first time, Agawam had its own section of the region's largest Irish celebration.

"I used to march in the parade as a City Council member," recalled Magovern. "Though Agawam didn't have its own contingent, there were pieces of Agawam all over the parade. We decided to make one, and give a reason for Agawam to have a contingent and build a float."

Every year, Six Flags New England gives the committee space to build their float, dating back to that very first Anne Sullivan float. The committee hosts corned beef dinners and fundraisers to support the construction effort.

"I remember peeling potatoes and putting out corned beef," Magovern said. "There are a lot of fond memories, but it's the people that made it."

"You don't realize you're making history. You're just trying to keep the culture alive," added Sandlin, who joined the committee in its second year. "The founders had this idea, and then the gathered people, and from then we've always had a robust committee."

She said volunteers are the heroes behind the scenes of the St. Patrick's Committee, and they are always looking for new people willing to help, even if that means only volunteering for a year or two. The new blood brings new ideas and energy to the committee, she said.

"I hope that people recognize the importance of keeping this committee going," Magovern said.



The Rev. John Brennan, who would later be a parade marshal in 2013, stands with Agawam's 2003 St. Patrick's Committee President William Pfau and Parade Marshal Bob Magovern. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Agawam High School's color guard and the Marching Mohawks band are annual fixtures in the Agawam division of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. FILE PHOTO



Parade Marshal Rosemary Sandlin marches at the head of the Agawam contingent in 2015. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY / SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Laurie Wright, the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee president for the past three years, was also the town's parade marshal in 2018.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY



Mayor Richard Cohen presents a citation to Bob Magovern upon his being named Agawam's parade marshal in 2003. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Right: Construction team member Douglas Reed makes a final inspection of Cup An Tae, the colleen float, before the 2017 parade. The float is one of many Agawam entries over the years to win a first-place ribbon.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Left: Agawam parade coordinators Tom Stanton and Rita Moore prepare for the march in 2003.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



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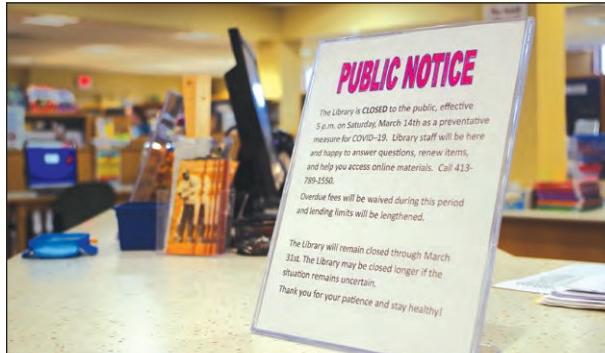
Children's Librarian Pam Weingart looks at one of the books on display in the Children's Room on Saturday afternoon. Several of the display racks were empty, as many families rushed to the library as soon as they heard it would be closed for weeks. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BALLWAY



Building Maintenance Department custodian Darryl Beane holds a bottle of disinfectant that he's been using at the library and Town Hall.



Roger Eaton of Feeding Hills hunts through the DVDs at the Agawam Public Library to find some titles to add to his stack of books and movies to be checked out.



A sign in the Children's Room on Saturday announces that the Agawam Public Library will remain closed until at least March 31.

CLOSURES ■ from page 1

tions on government, commerce and private behavior will seem more and more onerous as time goes on. He said we all need to remember that these closures have been ordered to protect ourselves, and our neighbors, from a deadly virus.

"That's the only way we're going to get through this," he said, if "everybody keeps their head and keeps calm. Be kind and courteous."

He also said that he knows restaurants, in particular, are hurting from the governor's ban on dining. If residents want to help a small business, they should order takeout or delivery food from a local eatery.

Emergency aid

Police and fire departments remain fully staffed. Sapelli said residents should feel confident that if they dial 9-1-1, the police, firefighters or ambulance will arrive. He did say that EMTs are asking people who call for an ambulance that they tell the dispatcher if they have a fever or other flu symptoms, which could be a sign of Covid-19.

"That only means they'll prepare themselves appropriately," he said. "They'll respond," as always, but it

helps them be better prepared."

Senior meals

The Agawam Senior Center is closed, but outreach programs for seniors who depend on them will continue, Sapelli said. That includes the Meals on Wheels program, which delivers 120-130 meals daily already, and will be expanding.

Though the daily congregate lunch won't be held in the Senior Center cafeteria, the town will offer a Meals on Wheels cold lunch to any senior who needs one. Seniors Center Director Mike Squindo will set up a drive-through lane to distribute lunches to seniors who would ordinarily eat at the Senior Center itself. The center is at 954 Main St., Agawam.

Seniors needing a meal, or who have other questions about senior services during the coronavirus shutdown, should call the Senior Center at 413-821-0605.

School lunches

Schools have been closed all week, and are under a state order to remain closed until at least the first week of April. Teachers are working on using technology to send assignments to students, Sapelli said. Start-

ing Thursday, the schools will also offer bag lunches, to take the place of the cafeteria lunch that students would otherwise be receiving.

The lunches will be available middays at Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Bag lunches will be distributed on a drive-through basis in good weather, or inside the school foyer if necessary.

Families do not have to call ahead or reserve a lunch. It's open "for any and all students in town, whether they attend Agawam public schools or not, whether they're on free or reduced lunch or not."

Lockbox bills

Despite limits to access and staffing at Town Hall, Sapelli said residents will still be able to conduct government business. Many transactions can be completed online, he said, at agawam.ma.us.

For those who need to pay a bill by check, there will be a lockbox at the front door of Town Hall, 36 Main St., Agawam.

Residents with questions or requests can call the town at 413-786-0400 and leave a message with the relevant office. Messages will be checked, as some workers will continue working from home. Sapelli said that he plans to continue working at Town Hall on his regular schedule.

Town workers whose offices have closed are on paid leave, Sapelli said. He said many of them have asked how they can volunteer to help, such as driving for Meals on Wheels.

"We've had people stepping up like that," Sapelli said.

Checking out

At the library, patrons rushed to stock up on books and music on Saturday.

day, particularly after the library announced that after closing at 5 p.m. that day, it would not reopen until at least March 31. The Friends of the Library used book rack offered a special deal of "a bag for a buck."

Roger Eaton of Feeding Hills made it to the library with his wife Donna during its final hour open. They gathered a large stack of books and DVDs to check out. As senior citizens, they find social distancing particularly difficult, as doctors recommend that grandparents limit their exposure to grandchildren, who can carry the Covid-19 disease without showing any symptoms. Having a fresh supply of books and movies will help pass the time, Eaton said, and it's hard to tell when the library will be open again.

In the Children's Room, more than half the display racks for featured children's books were empty. Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart said the library's activity bags had been popular items, as well.

Overdue fees will be waived as long as the library is closed, staff said.

Darryl Beane, the custodian at the library, said on Saturday that he had already stepped up the cleaning regimen in response to concerns over the coronavirus. He had cleaned every portable chair in the library's meeting rooms, for instance. While he usually goes through a bottle of medical-grade antiviral disinfectant every week and a half, last week he went through three bottles. Following Centers for Disease Control recommendations, he was planning to use a bleach solution for deep cleaning this week.

Even before the library announced it was closing, steps had been taken to control the spread of infections. The Children's Room removed all the toys from its play area on Friday morning. Weingart recalled that one of her younger patrons noticed the change, but understood the need to stay safe.

Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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SPORTS

COMMUNITY

State tournament halted before finals, Road Race cancelled

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Last week, the sports world was changed forever when the coronavirus pandemic cancelled the MIAA state championship games, and the professional sports world went into a domino effect that has led to the stoppage of play in all games and tournaments.

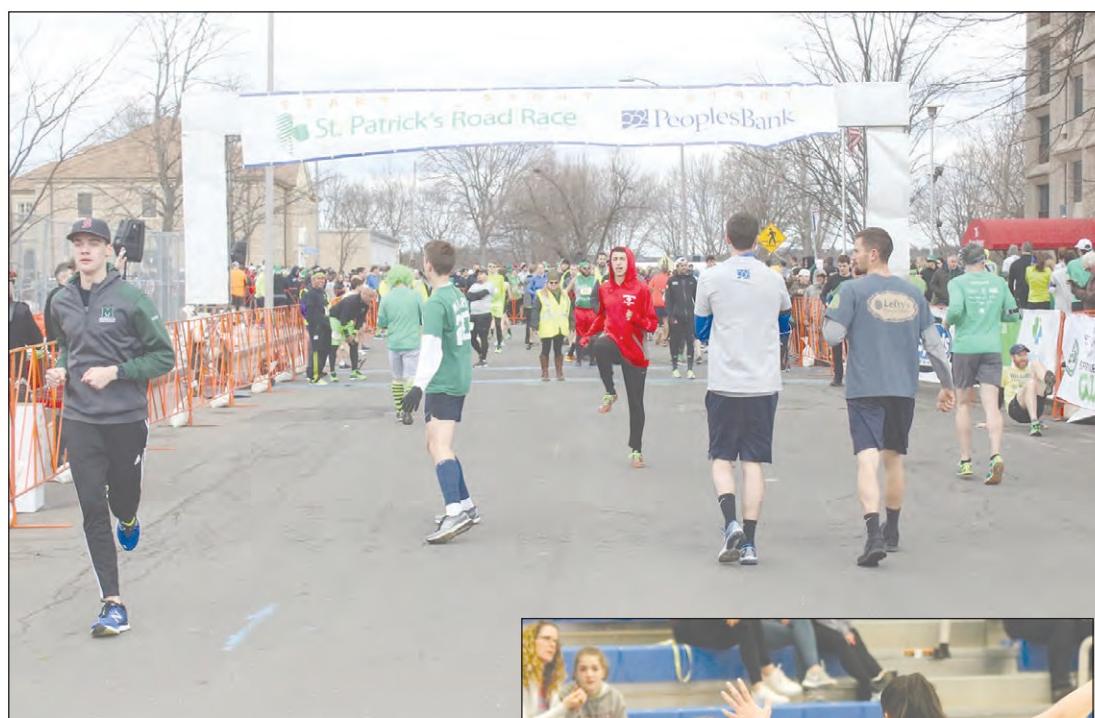
As the situation developed, the MIAA had started to play the state championship semifinal games, which included Minnechaug and Monson girls basketball.

But midway through the Monson game, it was announced that all semifinal winners would be considered "co-state champions."

Monson's game was one of a few that was played without fans before sporting events were stopped altogether in an effort exercise a new buzzword known as "social distancing."

Locally, one of the biggest impacts to the area occurred last Tuesday afternoon when Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse announced the cancellation of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and with it, the popular St. Patrick's Road Race, which was set to kick off on Saturday, March 21.

EVENTS | page 12



Above: Top racers from last year's St. Patrick's Day Road Race warm up right before race time.

Right: The Minnechaug Regional High School girls basketball team was in action earlier this week as the MIAA State Tournament held semifinals. The finals were called off. FILE PHOTOS



WESTERN MASS. PIONEERS

Open Cup postponed, no makeup date yet announced

By Tim Peterson
sports@turley.com

LUDLOW—The Western Mass. Pioneers have made a total of 11 appearances in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, which is the oldest ongoing national soccer competition in the United States, since 1998.

The Pioneers have been invited by U.S. Soccer to participate in the 107th edition of the elite tournament after not qualifying a year ago.

But the Pioneers will have to wait a while before it has the opportunity to take part in the event after the coronavirus pandemic has led to the event being postponed.

The Pioneers were originally scheduled to play GPS Portland on Tuesday, March 24.

"We're very excited to be playing in another Open Cup match at Lusitano Stadium," said Pioneers General Manager Greg Kolodziey. "It's always a fun tournament and it's a very good opportunity for the boys to play against some very good teams."

In the past, the Open Cup has always started in May, but U.S. Soccer decided to begin this year's tournament a couple of months earlier. With the ban on large events, it looks like the Cup may have to wait until May again.



Daniel Fabian converges with an opponent for possession of the ball during the Pioneers last Open Cup appearance in 2018.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

"Because of our league rules, we won't have access to any of the college players until the start of the regular season in May," Kolodziey said. "We'll have to piece together a roster for our first Open Cup game. We do have some older players from last year's team that should be available to us. We'll be signing players during the next couple of weeks."

Federico Molinari will be returning as the Pioneers head coach.

The last time that the Pioneers won an Open Cup match was in 2014 when they defeated Mass. Premier Soccer, 4-1 at home in the first round. They then lost, 2-1, to the Rochester Rhinos (USL Pro) in a second-round road match. The Pioneers suffered first round losses at Lusitano Stadium in 2015, 2017, and 2018.

"We haven't had very much luck playing in the Open Cup during the past couple of years,"

Kolodziey said. "We're hoping to turn things around this year."

The Pioneers did have a very memorable 2019 campaign. They finished the regular season with an 11-0-3 record and captured the Northeast Division title. The Western Mass. squad defeated North Carolina Fusion U-23 by the final score of 3-1 in the conference semifinals before losing to host Reading United AC 1-0 in the finals.

"We had a good group of players and it was a very good season for us last year," Kolodziey said. "We're hoping to qualify for the league playoffs again this year."

GPS Portland Phoenix also made the league playoffs last year and they lost 2-1 to Reading United in the semifinals.

The Pioneers are currently scheduled to play at GPS Portland Phoenix to kick off the 2019 regular season on May 9. They'll be playing at AC Connecticut the following week before hosting GPS Portland in the home opener on May 22. The Pioneers are scheduled to play five more regular season home matches.

There has not been any further information on the regular season schedule and it is possible the season will open without any delays since it is not set to begin until May.

SPRING SPORTS

Sports world crippled by virus

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

It feels like to some, the sports world has been literally the "most" affected by the spread of the coronavirus.

Changes are happening every day related to the virus so much in fact that our weekly papers had a very tough time keeping up with them last week.

Now, the changes have started to slow down, because here in Western Massachusetts, there is not much more that can be done to bring the world to a crawl.

Even before many schools made the decision at the end of last week to close their doors for two weeks, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association closed down the conclusion of the state tournament, shut fans out, and delayed the start of the spring sports season by at least two weeks.

But is delaying spring sports by two weeks really a new concept in Massachusetts? Absolutely not. Excessive March snow and cold temperatures slowing the melting process has delayed baseball and softball seasons for between one and two weeks for the last few years.

Last year, the regular season was extended by a week to accommodate the poor weather for the springtime and give schools a chance to play all their regular season games.

The only disappointing part for many athletes, is that it appeared for a while we had an early spring coming with baseball and softball fields already drained, and the grass lacrosse fields just about fit for play on the actual days teams are supposed to open in late March.

But like Major League Baseball, which delayed the start of its season, the start of the spring sports season cannot go on.

The MIAA has also mandated that coaches are not able to have anything to do with their teams, much like the current rules that exist during sport offseas. That means, with two weeks off from school and no coaching guidance, and then add in almost no facilities to use, athletes will be on their own to stay in shape and be ready to go if the MIAA allows spring practices to begin on March 30.

But that is not the only piece of the sports world that is affected. So many youth organizations and parks departments have also been forced to stop practices and seasons and tournaments due to concern for the coronavirus.

During the past week, the 36th iteration of the Szlats Memorial Tournament was just halted after only two days of competition by

VIRUS | page 12

Sports

OVER-30 LEAGUE

Valley Wheel Baseball looking for new players for 2020 season

The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season, which is set to begin near the end of April. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. The league is built on comrad-

ery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be taking place in the early weeks of April, weather permitting, with a draft following the tryouts.

YOUTH SWIMMING

Piranhas team holding tryouts in April

The Agawam Piranhas competitive swim team will host a new swimmer trial at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in the pool at Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

The team, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, is open to children ages 6-18. Registration for the summer season begins April 7, in person at the Parks and Rec office and online at www.agawam.ma.us (click on "Departments," then "Parks and Recreation"). Online registration closes April 27.

The cost is \$120 for Agawam residents,

\$135 for non-residents. Practice times will vary based on the swimmer's age. New swimmers are welcome to try the team free of charge before registering.

Practice for returning swimmers begins at 6 p.m. Monday, May 4, at AJHS.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 413-821-0513 or recreation@agawam.ma.us. The Parks and Rec office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, excluding holidays, in the Municipal Annex at 1000 Suffield St., Agawam.

Find us online: www.sports.turley.com

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P0520GD
In the matter of:
Gloria Caride
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED

PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Agawam Healthcare** of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Gloria Caride** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Diane Tillman** of Chicopee, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated,

ed, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **04/10/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you

object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about

personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS: Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 13, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/19/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD20P0421PM

In the matter of:
Agnes M Meredith
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/ Minor)
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE
ORDER PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304 & 5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Heritage Hall West of Agawam, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Agnes M Meredith** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Eileen Sullivan-Boss** of West Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/30/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness: Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 02, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/19/2020

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VIRUS ■ from page 11

the tournament committee because Chicopee Public Schools had to shut down their facilities.

Other great season-ending events were shut down as well, including banquets and all-star games. The 2020 High School Senior All-Star Game held at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame was cancelled. The game was originally set for Thursday, March 19, but Gov. Charlie Baker has barred any gathering with more than 250 people. The games drawn a few thousand throughout the evening.

What could hurt the athletes most is the uncertainty. Spring sports are shut down for two weeks right now. But it is possible that could be extended, or worse, cancelled all together. Unfortunately, those options are on the table. The MIAA most

recently released this statement on Saturday, March 14.

"The MIAA staff equally shares in these emotions and the existing heartbreak which has resulted due to canceled games, shortened seasons and disruption to exciting school activities, trips and opportunities."

As we face these uncharted waters, be confident in knowing the MIAA staff is well and is readily available to you with guidance, support, resources and kindness. Our office is open and functioning. Scheduled meetings are moving forward in person or via tele- and/or video-conferencing, as organized by each MIAA sport liaison. Communication regarding the status of the spring season will be forthcoming following necessary discussions this coming week."

Turley Sports will continue to monitor the situation and bring you news whenever we can.

EVENTS ■ from page 11

The event is cancelled and will not be made up due to the immense amount of planning and work with sponsors, public safety, sanitation, and other officials needed to make the event happen.

"It's not something you can just postpone for a couple of weeks and then make it happen," a city official said at Morse's press conference on Tuesday.

The cancellation has brought forth a lot of disbelief and disappointment in the amount of disturbance the coronavirus has caused in the past two weeks.

The St. Patrick's Day Road Race was also considered a major preparation step for local runners who then move on to participate in the Patriots Day tradition, the Bos-

ton Marathon. However, that race has since also been postponed from its scheduled date of Monday, April 20. Tentatively, Gov. Charlie Baker and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh have moved the big race to Monday, Sept. 14. Baker said at a news conference his administration planned to file legislation to hold the race on that date.

The MIAA hockey finals were also scrapped. They were set to take place last weekend at the TD Garden in Boston, which is now completely shut down from having events since Baker lowered the gathering ban to 25 people.

In neighboring Connecticut, the CIAC, the organization that oversees the state's high school sports has cancelled the remainder of the state tournaments for basketball, hockey, and other remaining sports that have competitions.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/30/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness: Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 02, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/19/2020

Voters Guide

John Cain

R-Southwick



John Cain, 31, is the owner of Cain's Mechanical Inc. of Agawam. He lives in Southwick with his wife Mikenzie Cain and daughter Colleen Cain. He is a volunteer firefighter with the Southwick Fire Department and received an honorable discharge as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in September 2019.

1. What legislation would you advocate in your first year that will add jobs or improve the economy in our section of Western Massachusetts?

I will advocate for legislation that is currently being worked on (H. 4529) that will expand access to skilled trade education for both high school students and adults. This legislation looks to utilize technical high school infrastructure to educate students during normal school hours and outside of school hours, adults and other students. This is a fiscally conservative way of expanding education access to a large group while keeping capital and operating costs low. There is a major skills gap in the U.S. which limits business and personal growth opportunities. In Western Massachusetts there are many unfilled skilled trade positions, ranging from highway construction to aerospace manufacturing.

In addition, the Health Care Choice Bill currently being drafted by the Senate will improve transparency in health care, in turn reducing costs. In summary, it allows consumers more choices and current information regarding their healthcare and benefits.

2. What role do state and local governments have to play in immigration policy or enforcement? Would you push for a change in state law on this topic, and if so, what would you change?

Federal legislation dictates the laws regarding immigration policy, therefore state and local governments should have no role in the policy. In regards to enforcement, state and local governments have an obligation to enforce the laws that have been put in place to keep their citizens safe. I support the citizens of our country and the rights and privileges which they deserve. When immigration policy is not followed, our local communities are put in danger and our law enforcement cannot properly protect and serve the people. As state senator, I will advocate for legislation that protects our communities, law enforcement and first responders. I will work against sanctuary policies, including issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Rather than harboring lawlessness, I will advocate for those who want to become citizens and live by the values, morals, ethics and laws that make this country safe and prosperous.

3. What would you do differently than the former senator, Donald Humason? What votes did he take during his tenure that you would have opposed?

Overall, Sen. Humason presented and sponsored legislation that I agree with. His voting record shows his conservative values, but also his ability to work with other lawmakers for the benefit of the taxpayer. I will continue to strongly advocate for legislation for veterans and in particular, continue to be a strong advocate for the Holyoke Soldiers Home. I have researched his legislation and could not find any that I disagree with. The main difference is I will make representation of all 11 communities more universal, and not consider Westfield the focal point of the district. I will proudly continue the transparency and accessibility that Sen. Humason provided to his constituents. Sen. Humason was well-respected and well-liked by his constituents. I am confident that I can build off his legacy and continue to represent this district proudly and faithfully.

4. Are state taxes at an appropriate level? Would you make any changes — or oppose any proposed changes — to the income, sales and gasoline tax rates?

Government has a spending problem that tax increases won't solve. The level of taxes are inflated. With a \$2 billion rainy-day fund, our government is spending recklessly while introducing more taxes. Any personal or business budget spending must be controlled. Many taxes are not used for their intended purpose, but moved to the general fund and used for entitlement programs. My focus is transparency: showing the people what politicians are doing with our hard-earned money. Reducing costs of government projects would allow more projects to be completed, create jobs, and stimulate small business growth. I oppose the proposed gas tax, TCI, or other tax increases that subsidize Boston and the MBTA. Without reducing costs and spending, taxpayers and businesses will continue leaving the state, crippling local economies. Priority should be retaining taxpayers by providing value rather than using them as a pocketbook for financially failing government agencies.

5. What specific belief, attribute or experience makes you a better choice for senator than your opponent in this race?

I am the best choice to be the next state senator based on my professional, personal and public service experience, formal education and military leadership training. I understand firsthand the issues that families and businesses face daily. I have experience in balancing budgets and solving problems timely while working with people of different viewpoints. I know what it is like to have to make payroll on a Thursday night without passing a supplemental budget. Career politicians like my opponent, who have not worked in the private sector, have led this state down a path of exuberant spending without regard for the impact of their decisions on businesses and the working class. I have always been accountable to customers, employees or employers, and will hold myself accountable to constituents. I am committed to transparent government, where my opponent has voted against transparency legislation throughout state government, which does not allow proper representation.

Voters Guide: State Senate

Residents of Agawam and Feeding Hills are scheduled to go to the polls Tuesday, March 31, to select a new state senator to serve the remaining nine months of former state Sen. Donald Humason Jr.'s term.

Humason, a Republican from Westfield, resigned in January after being elected mayor of that city. He had represented the 11 communities of the district since 2013.

Two candidates were nominated at the March 3 primary election, state Rep. John Velis, a Democrat from Westfield, and business owner John Cain, a Republican from Southwick. As a service to voters, the Agawam Advertiser News invited both candidates to respond to the same five questions. Their responses, in their own words up to a limit of 150, are printed on this page.

The winner of this spring's election will be eligible to take office immediately, and will serve until the end of the year. The position will be up for election again, for a full two-year term, at the state election this November.

As of this week, the election was still slated to be held on schedule, despite the cancellation of many government meetings and services in an effort to stem the spread of the coronavirus. Pick up next week's edition of the Agawam Advertiser News for the latest information on the election.

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John Velis

D-Westfield



John Velis, 41, is the elected state representative for Westfield. He lives in Westfield. In addition to his service on Beacon Hill, he is also a veteran and a major in the U.S. Army Reserves.

1. What legislation would you advocate in your first year that will add jobs or improve the economy in our section of Western Massachusetts?

We have jobs available here in Western Massachusetts through our thriving manufacturing, health care, and information technology industries. The legislation we need to advocate for must protect and expand these job industries, while also providing the requisite training programs at all levels to fill these jobs.

Westfield Tech currently does a great job of this; we must take what they've accomplished and expand it to our other communities. We should look into other programs, as well, such as apprenticeship tax credits

to help make the apprentice-business relationship a win-win for everyone.

2. What role do state and local governments have to play in immigration policy or enforcement? Would you push for a change in state law on this topic, and if so, what would you change?

The first thing I learned in my immigration law class in law school is that immigration is a federal issue; state and local government have very little input. There are plenty of examples of the Supreme Court overruling states laws relating to immigration. However, the issue has been left at our doorstep due to the partisan bickering at the federal level that leads to nothing getting done.

As the current vice chair of the Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee, I would push for the passage of the bill that demands the U.S. lawmakers do the job they were elected to do.

My papau ("grandfather" in Greek) came over from Greece through Ellis Island. He had 5 cents in his pocket, played by the rules, and opened restaurants that created jobs for natural-born citizens and immigrants alike. The opportunities he had, and are able to create, are what makes America great.

3. What would you do differently than the former senator, Donald Humason? What votes did he take during his tenure that you would have opposed?

I learned very early in my Army career that it's an act in futility to either praise or condemn your predecessor. I am my own person, and unique in my approach to politics. My record shows I am the most bipartisan lawmaker in Massachusetts and that approach — with respect to all lawmakers — makes me truly unique.

4. Are state taxes at an appropriate level? Would you make any changes — or oppose any proposed changes — to the income, sales and gasoline tax rates?

In my view, no, there is no need for any new taxes. The real need stares us in the face: We need to be more prudent with our spending habits. We need to stop looking at taxes as the way to create revenue to fund projects or fix fiscal mismanagement by certain organizations. Massachusetts does not have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem.

My strong opposition in voting against the gas tax two weeks ago was because of the negative impact it could have on Western Massachusetts. Massachusetts legislators cannot be looking at the pockets of

taxpayers as the only solution to problems, but should be better directed in proper fiscal management.

5. What specific belief, attribute or experience makes you a better choice for senator than your opponent in this race?

I have six years of experience with a record of achievement through bipartisan efforts.

As a current major in the U.S. Army Reserves — and combat veteran who served two tours in Afghanistan — my time in the military shaped my bipartisan approach. When given an order, we didn't ask about political allegiances, we just got to work, got the job done, and didn't care who got credit.

As an attorney, I spent years studying and interpreting the laws of our state. I learned many lessons that have made the transition from attorney, to lawmaker, a comfortable one.

During my time as a representative, I have established many essential and necessary relationships with leaders and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in order to get things done for my constituents.

All these experiences have given me a strong voice on Beacon Hill, and that's what the people of Western Mass. need.

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AHS COUNSELING BULLETIN

Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

Professional Women in Construction, Connecticut Chapter: Approximately 15 scholarships for students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in construction, construction management, interior design, architecture, landscape design, or civil, mechanical, structural, and electrical engineering. Apply at pwcsusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship. Due March 25.

Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts: For seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing or graphics arts. Applications and more information at adclubwm.org. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans. Due March 31.

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts: CFWM administers 130 scholarships and two interest-free loans for eligible students predominantly living in the Pioneer Valley. Application available at communityfoundation.org/scholarships/apply. Graduating seniors, current college students (undergrad and grad) and those who have completed or will complete a GED/HISET are encouraged to apply. Applicants must request an unofficial transcript from their counselor well in advance of applying. Due March 31.

Matthews Massachusetts Memorial Fund scholarship: For a deserving male graduate of any public high school in Hampden County, excluding the town of Longmeadow. Applications in Naviance. Due March 31.

Automotive scholarships: Many scholarships are available to students who are training to become automotive, heavy duty or collision repair technicians, as well as those studying engineering, accounting, business, or other courses of study. Graduating seniors, full-time post-secondary students, and former recipients are welcome to apply. More info: automotivescholarships.com. Due March 31.

Pascal A. Deliso Scholarship: For students with distinguished academic ability, regular involvement in community service, commitment to the Roman Catholic faith, at least one parent of Italian descent, and have an acceptance to an accredited two- or four-year college or university. Applications in the Counseling Center. Due April 1.

Emily K. Dushane Memorial Foundation Scholarship: For Agawam High School seniors who will be attending a college or university (full-time) this fall. Applications available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Franco Liquori Memorial Scholarship: For graduates of Agawam High School who attended Benjamin Phelps School. Candidates must also demonstrate need and academic ability. Scholarships will be made to one male and one female. The committee may require a personal interview. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial Scholarship: Awarded by the Agawam Rotary Club to seniors from Agawam and West Springfield who best exemplify the Rotary's principal motto, "Service Above Self," and who show leadership abilities and a desire to make a contribution to their home, school, community and country. Applications in Naviance. Due April 1.

Beverly M. Ladizki and David A. Ladizki Scholarship: Awarded by the Agawam Rotary Club to seniors from Agawam intending to attend law school. Applicants must be scheduled to attend an accredited academic college or university in the September following graduation from high school. Applications in Naviance. Due April 1.

Agawam Soccer Association Scholarship: Applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer as a player and/or other ASA soccer-related activity such as coaching or refereeing. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Agawam Soccer Association Sullivan Family Scholarship: Applicants must be seniors who have

participated in ASA soccer as a player and/or other ASA soccer-related activity such as coaching or refereeing. Applicants must have had a parent or close relative who participated in Agawam Soccer as a coach, assistant coach, board member or tournament volunteer. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Agawam Soccer Association Christopher Knight Scholarship: Applicants must be seniors who have participated in the ASA soccer program. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Agawam Soccer Association Rich Parolo Scholarship: Applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer for at least four years, AHS soccer for at least two years, and participated in extracurricular soccer-related activities such as coaching, assistant coaching or refereeing. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Andrew Gallano Scholarship for the Arts: For an Agawam resident going to college to pursue a degree in the cultural arts, such as painting, drama, languages, music, dance, journalism, architecture or graphics. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Arthur J. Leary Scholarship: For an Agawam resident who will be pursuing a degree in business management beginning the September after high school graduation. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Charles H. Heyl Vocational/Technical Scholarship/Grant: Financial assistance to an individual from Agawam, who need not be a high school senior, in obtaining an education related to a vocational/technical career or to grant an individual the amount of the scholarship for the purpose of purchasing tools or equipment to become established in his or her trade. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation Scholarship: \$3,000 for a high school senior from Agawam. Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Valley Press Club Scholarships: \$1,000 to students interested in print, online, photo or broadcast journalism. While grades and financial need are considerations, primary emphasis will be placed on a demonstrated desire to pursue a career in journalism. Applications at valleypressclub.com. Due April 1.

Wilson-Thompson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 185 Scholarship: Applicants must be seniors continuing their education and must be a family member of a veteran or active military member (daughter, son, sister, brother, granddaughter or grandson). Applications are available in Naviance. Due April 1.

Hampshire Franklin & Hampden Agricultural Society (Three County Fair) Scholarships: Multiple awards each year to graduating seniors in the three counties, with priority given to students pursuing a career in agriculture. Students should also have a record of volunteerism in their community in non-school-sponsored activities and participation in extracurricular school activities. Applications available at 3countyfair.com/p/getinvolved/296. Due April 3.

Agawam Retired Employees Association Scholarship: For members of the class of 2020 who are the child or grandchild of a retired Agawam town employee. Applicants must also demonstrate financial need and be in good academic standing. Applications available in Naviance. Due April 3.

William J. Miller Scholarship: Sponsored by the Benjamin J. Phelps School PTO. Applicants must have attended Phelps School. Applications in Naviance. Due April 3.

James Clark PTO Scholarship: For seniors who attended Clark School for at least two years. Applications in Naviance. Due April 3.

Agawam High School PTSO: Two \$250 scholarships to students who will be entering a college or technical/trade school in the fall. Applications in Naviance. Due April 6.

Agawam Education Association 25 Week Club Scholarship: For a student whose parent is a member of the 25 Week Club. Students must submit a 500-word essay that describes their personal, educational and career goals. Applications in Naviance. Due April 10.

Agawam Education Association David Theodorowicz Scholarship: Applicants must be ranked in the top 20 percent of the senior class and plan to continue their education at a four-year college or university. Due April 10.

Dolly Lancaster Scholarship: Offered by Yankee Heritage Tote to a graduating senior who will major in visual arts. Students must have a portfolio with original artwork as part of the application. Applications in the Counseling Center. Due April 10.

R. Kenneth Grady Memorial Scholarship: For any Agawam High School senior residing in Agawam who plans to attend college and major in criminal justice, law enforcement or any other four-year degree. One male and one female will be chosen, based on character, grade-point average, class rank, and application information. Applications in Naviance. Due April 15.

Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts Scholarships: \$1,000 or \$500 to graduating seniors of Italian heritage. Application at www.iccwcm.org under the Scholarship tab. More info: Sandra Vella at iccscholarship@comcast.net or 413-784-1492. Due April 15.

Christopher A. Kazantis Memorial Scholarship: \$10,000 for two AHS graduates who have been accepted to the Business School at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Applicants must demonstrate need and academic ability. Applications in Naviance. Due April 17.

Massachusetts Broadcasters Association Student Broadcaster Scholarship: For eligible students majoring in a broadcast-related field. Applications at massbroadcasters.org. More info: Jordan Walton at 800-471-1875 or jordan@massbroadcaster.org. Due April 17.

The Agawam Youth Football Scholarship: Applicants must attend Agawam High School and must have participated in youth football. Applications in Naviance. Due April 20.

Clifford M. Granger PTO Scholarship: For AHS seniors who attended Granger School and plan to continue their education. Applications in Naviance. Due April 22.

Student-View Scholarship Program: \$12,000 worth of scholarships to high school seniors who plan to attend a four-year, community/junior college or career school. Applications at www.student-view.com. Due April 22.

Kyle J.W. Hendricks Scholarship Fund: \$1,000 for a student at AHS with a passion for a trade or the arts. The purpose of the scholarship is to shift the attention away from the student enrolled in every club or after-school activity. For more information, contact Ashley Hendricks at Ashley.hndrcks@gmail.com. Applications in Naviance. Due April 24.

Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement Scholarship: For female students to pursue a degree in criminal justice. Candidates will be evaluated based on their achievements. Applications at mawle.org. Due April 24.

Holyoke Credit Union Scholarships: Three \$500 scholarships. For high school seniors who will be enrolled in an undergraduate college degree program in 2020-21. The applicant or parent/guardian must be a member in good standing with the Holyoke Credit Union. Applications in Naviance. Due April 30.

Kiwanis Club of West Springfield and Agawam Scholarship: \$250 to recognize community service performed by all high school seniors in West Springfield and Agawam. Students must be seeking an undergraduate degree at an accredited college in the fall of 2020. Applications in Naviance. Due May 1.

Nextiva Scholarship: \$1,000 for eligible high school juniors or seniors who plan to major in a business or STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) program, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Details at www.nextiva.com/scholarship. Due May 1.

Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund: Renewable college scholarships to students from Western Massachusetts who have financial need, display academic achievement, and have demonstrated through their high school activities and/or choice of college major a commitment to social justice and/or environmental concerns. Applicants who wish to be considered for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship will use the Stephen Phillips Memorial Schol-

arship application and all applicants for the Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program will also be considered for the traditional Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship awards. Applicants will receive a single response notifying them if they have been granted either award. Applications are posted at phillips-scholarship.org. Early Response deadline is April 3; regular deadline is May 1.

American College Foundation Visionary Scholarship: Multiple awards between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Apply at AmericanCollegeFoundation.org. Due May 1.

Disabled American Veterans Scholarship: For current DAV members or those related to current DAV members, such as son, daughter, grandchild, great grandchild, nephew or niece. Must be a DAV member or high school senior accepted to a college, trade, vocational or technical school. Applicants from previous years may apply each year as they proceed through their education. Applications in Naviance. Due May 15.

B. Davis Scholarship: \$1,000 from the creators of the "Student Award Search Aid" website. For more information, visit studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm. Due May 22.

Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants Scholarship: Up to \$1,000 for the winner(s) each year. Applicants must submit an essay on the topic that appears at abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm. Due June 12.

AES Engineers Scholarship: \$500 to motivated high school seniors to help in the furthering of their education. Students are not required to be taking engineering courses to be eligible. More info: aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm. Deadline Oct. 5.

Going Merry is a one-stop shop for scholarships. Through this online platform, students will be matched with scholarships that they're eligible for and be able to apply for these scholarships directly on the website, without having to enter their information multiple times. Visit goingmerry.com.

Special interest programs

Congressman Richard Neal announced that Academy Day begins April 25 at noon. This is a one-day program for students who wish to learn more about the nomination and appointment process to attend a service academy (Army-West Point, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Merchant Marine Academy, Naval Academy). Students interested in a ROTC scholarship are also invited to attend. The event will be held at the Springfield Museums, 21 Edward St., Springfield. All participants must be registered by April 17. Registration details are available at neal.house.gov/academy-nominations.

The University of Massachusetts at Amherst Disability Services office invites students to learn more about the transition from high school to college. This is an opportunity for accepted and prospective students with disabilities and their families. The event is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 23, in Furcolo 101. Register by April 10 with Rachel Adams, radams@admin.umass.edu or 413-545-0892, ext. 4.

UMass-Amherst has put together an exciting lineup of pre-college programs for the summer of 2020 at umass.edu/summer/programs/academic-programs. In addition to popular returning programs such as the McCormack Sport Leadership Academy, Summer Engineering Institute, Summer Design Academy, and many others, the following are new programs for 2020: Introduction to Programming in Processing; Foundations of Music Theory; Forensic Science: Crime Scene Investigation; Foundations of Data Science; Architectural & Landscape Watercolor Rendering; and Economics of Hunger. If you have questions about these programs, contact Ben Mitchell, Summer Programs Coordinator, at bmitchell@umass.edu.

Springfield Technical Community College and Holyoke Community College are again offering the chance for current juniors and seniors to take up to one free course in the fall and spring semesters through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. The spring 2020 courses for STCC are now posted at stcc.edu/explore/schedules/all-spring-2020.

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Factors to consider before choosing a summer camp

Adults often look back fondly on their childhood experiences at summer camp. Camps can provide the opportunity to form lifelong friendships and discover rewarding hobbies that can enrich campers' lives for decades to come.

Choosing a summer camp is no small task, as the options at families' disposal range from overnight camps to weekday afternoon camps to camps that specialize in certain programs, such as music or dance. Cost also is likely to factor into families' decisions, as the American Camp Association notes that cost can vary greatly depending on which camp families choose. For example, the ACA notes

that the average daily fee at a resident camp is \$85, while the same fee at a day camp is \$43.

When looking for a summer camp for kids, families should make the decision together. Kids should be involved in the selection process, as they're more likely to have an enjoyable camp experience if they had a say in where they will be spending their summers. The following are some factors families should consider as they look for summer camps, courtesy of the ACA.

Kids' interests

The ACA urges parents to consider the

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child's interests and personality before choosing a summer camp. Parents might want their children to attend the same summer camp they visited as youngsters, but each child is different. Just because mom and dad liked a particular camp does not mean their children will. The

ACA notes that summer camps should align with children's interests and maturity level.

Locale

Locale may only be a consideration for families considering overnight camps.

Kids will likely be familiar with the locations of local day camps, but overnight camps might be set in mountain ranges, near the ocean or environments less familiar to youngsters. Kids who love the ocean might benefit from ocean-front camps that focus on marine biology, boating or other activities involving the water. In the same vein, youngsters who like camping and hiking might be more likely to embrace camps located in mountain-



ous regions.

Session length

Camps may last as little as one week or up to a couple of months. Session length should be considered by families looking

at both local day camps and overnight resident camps. Parents who want their children to enjoy a largely schedule-free summer might not want to commit their children to lengthy camp sessions, even if those sessions are close to home. If par-

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ents think their children can benefit from the same structure they're accustomed to during the school year, then an overnight camp that stretches for several weeks might be what they're looking for.

Summer camps give kids a chance to make memories that will last a lifetime. Choosing the right camp is an important decision that parents and kids should make together.

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A Traditional Day Camp Experience for Boys and Girls ages 4 to 15 years

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Week 1: June 15-19 • Week 2: June 22-26

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New Robotics Program (grades 5-8)




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LUDLOW COMMUNITY CENTER RANDALL BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

91 Claudia's Way Ludlow, MA 01056

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Camp Hours: 6:30 am - 5:30PM

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Thursday, April 16th & Tuesday, April 28th

9:00am - 2:00pm

Thursday, April 23rd & Monday, May 4th

6:00pm - 7:30pm

\$160 per week/per child - Ludlow Resident
\$170 per week/per child - Non-resident

No Appointment Necessary/No Additional Discounts

Must pay in Full or Use Auto Debit

General Registration

Friday, May 15th 9:00-2:00PM

Wednesday, May 20th 6:00-7:30PM

Thursday, May 28th 6:00-7:30PM

\$180 per week/per child: Ludlow Resident

\$190 per week/per child: Non-Resident

\$50 registration fee will be waived with pay in full or auto debit option.

Space is Limited

Must bring a voided check or bank letter for auto debit

Current immunizations due at the time of registration

Questions? Contact: ssantos@ludlowbgc.org or kmartins@ludlowbgc.org

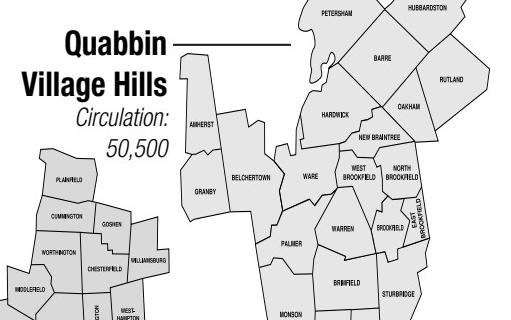
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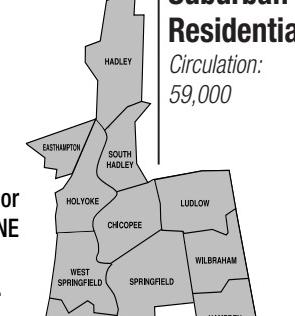
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The successful candidate will have excellent leadership qualities, exceptional oral and written communication skills including successful grant-writing record, experience with municipal finances/budgets, procurement, Mass. General Laws, human resources/personnel management, and planning. The candidate should be forward-thinking and innovative, with a strong commitment and motivation to work collaboratively with town department heads, employees, boards, committees, and citizens.

The Town Administrator plays a crucial role in the town's overall planning, management, organization, stability, and growth. The position works under the three-member Board of Selectmen. View the job description at www.town-ofbarre.com.

Job requirements include: Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a related field, and five years of related experience with a minimum of three years in a managerial position. Salary commensurate with experience.

Please send cover letter, resume, and three professional references to tasearch@townofbarre.com, no later than April 9, 2020.

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